

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

The embodiment of the invention according to Figure 1 comprises a conditioning container 1 for the liquid 2 to be degassed. In said container 1 a low pressure is generated by means of a vacuum pump 13 preferably a pre-vacuum pump which may comprise a Venturi nozzle, and a supply container 3 is arranged downstream of said container 1 in accordance with Figure 1. Preferably, due to the influence of the low pressure, the liquid 2 is sucked into the conditioning container 1 via the conduit 6 connected with the bottom 1a of the conditioning container 1 and ending above the surface 2a of the liquid when the valve 8 is open. The liquid stays in the conditioning container 1 for a predetermined period of time (e.g. 3 to 8 minutes), wherein it can be heated preferably by means of a schematically shown heater 5. The gas bubbles 15 contained in the liquid 2 become bigger due to the influence of the low pressure and the increase in the temperature of the liquid, have an additional buoyancy, leave the surface 2a of the liquid 2 and are sucked off by the vacuum means 13. The level in the conditioning container 1 is controlled by a level indicator 11. Moreover, a temperature sensor 10 which controls the power supply from a current source 14 to the heater 5 is provided. After the predetermined time period has passed, a valve 9 is opened and the thus degassed liquid is passed through the conduits 7 and 12 into the supply container 3 due to the influence of the gravitational force. The inlet conduit 12 is preferably arranged below the liquid level 2a' and more preferred at the bottom 3a of the supply container 3. The discharge conduit 7 is preferably connected with the bottom 1a of the conditioning container 1.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 4 as follows:

Preferably, there is an atmospheric pressure in the supply container. Figures 2a and 2b show enlarged views of the piston and the cylinder of the plunger pump during operation. According to Figure 2a, the cylinder 4b moves away from the stationary piston 4a in the direction of the arrow A, wherein the check-valve 4e opens and liquid 2' flows in the direction of the arrow B into the interior of the cylinder 4b. In Figure 2b the cylinder 4b moves in the direction of the arrow C towards the stationary piston 4a, wherein the check-valve 4e is closed and the liquid is pressed in the direction of the arrow D through the opening 4c into the outlet conduit 4d which supplies the liquid to a suitable application, e.g. a lacquer or bonding agent head (not shown) for applying lacquer or bonding agent onto the surface of a substrate.